



# **ISE: Integrated Skills in English** **(paper edition)**

Teacher resources

Independent listening tasks

**ISE III**



# ISE III

## Teacher information

### Sample independent listening task

#### Toddler development

#### Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a talk about child development. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen.

Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

*The task will play once.*

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

*Give the candidate some blank notepaper.*

Now listen to the task again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to summarise the information about the studies into social interaction and outline the speaker's attitude towards the studies. Are you ready?

*The task will play once.*

Now summarise the information about the studies into social interaction and outline the speaker's attitude towards the studies. I'll stop you after one minute.

#### Audio script

Hello and welcome to the programme where we discuss research into human communication. Today, we're going to be looking at the social aspect of development in babies, that is, establishing when children start to become aware of social interaction with other people.

In order to find out more about this, we need to look at two studies conducted by a small group of university researchers.

Let's look at the first study. First of all, it was designed to show that even from birth babies are social and, secondly, to show that babies actually know that people are the source of social interaction. So how did the researchers go about demonstrating this? Well, the study involved a one-week-old baby who was shown a number of pictures. These were pictures of different human faces, followed by images of toys. It was interesting to see what was revealed by measuring activity in the baby's brain. Indeed, these measurements showed that there was a greater level of activity in the baby's brain when it was shown pictures of faces than of toys. This seemed to prove that the researchers were on the right track.

Now, moving on to the second study, the researchers investigated how social skills develop in older babies of seven months old. Their aims were two-fold.



They wanted to demonstrate that as babies get older, they are aware of when social interaction has ended, and then the team looked at how babies might be able to re-start interaction when it had broken down. Let's look at how the researchers achieved this.

First of all, parents were asked to play with their babies. But after a few minutes, the parents were told to move away and not interact with their child. The results were fascinating. It was observed that the babies tried several different strategies in order to get their parent's attention back. Again the researchers' prediction appears to be correct.

However, I'd like to share my views about these studies. I'm afraid that I'm sceptical about there being any value in them at all. I'll explain why. I'm not convinced that the studies were scientific enough. Only a few children took part, so there's the argument that the study is too small. Not only that, but I personally think that they don't tell us anything new about children's social skills. I already knew that babies smile at faces from a very young age, didn't you?

On the positive side, though, at least this is a start to finding out more about the development of babies' social interaction, and you have to start somewhere!

Thanks for listening. In next week's programme we'll be turning to the fascinating topic of teenage communication.



## Teacher information

### Answers

**Main point/gist:** The speaker is talking about (two) studies into the social development of babies/ (the development of) social interaction/awareness in babies/children and gave his/her opinion on the studies.

### Possible responses to task

#### Summarise the studies into social interaction

- ▶ **Aims of first study:** to prove babies are social from birth and know people are the source of social interaction
  - Baby shown pictures of faces and toys
  - Greater activity in the brain when shown faces than toys
- ▶ **Aims of second study:** to show that (older) babies/(babies from seven months) know when social interaction ends and how to re-start it
  - Parents played with their child and then moved away/did not interact
  - The babies tried (strategies) to get their parent's attention back

#### Speaker's attitude towards the studies

- ▶ Sceptical that the results have any value – studies are not scientific enough and too few children/studies too small.
- ▶ Doesn't think we find out anything new – speaker already knew that babies smile at faces.
- ▶ Feels positive/Thinks that it's a start to finding out about (development of) babies' social skills.

# ISE III

## Teacher information

### Sample independent listening task

#### Urban architecture

#### Examiner rubric

You're going to hear part of a talk about architecture. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

*The task will play once.*

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

*Give the candidate some blank notepaper.*

Now listen to the task again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to summarise what considerations should be taken into account when designing urban buildings, and what the speaker's attitude towards urban building design is. Are you ready?

*The task will play once.*

Now tell me what considerations should be taken into account when designing urban buildings, and what the speaker's attitude toward urban building design is. I'll stop you after one minute.

#### Audio script

Hello and welcome to the *Thinking Point* podcast, where I'm going to examine the topic of Urban Architecture, and more specifically urban building design. Many people ask what constitutes 'good' architecture, so I'll be looking at some of the considerations that should be taken into account when designing a building and presenting my own ideas about urban building design.

Well, one consideration for urban building design is that buildings should allow the access of natural light. Research has shown that this has a positive effect on people. Among the reasons for this is that exposure to natural light helps us to regulate our body clock. When this happens, it allows the creation of periods of activity and periods of relaxation.

Another point to take into account is that architects should cater for different needs in their designs. For example, sometimes we might require a private room for meetings, or at other times a more open, fun space that allows creativity. A successful design will incorporate such areas.

Now, I don't know about you, but I find that there's nothing more depressing than rows of monotonous-looking dull buildings. A building has to have an aesthetic importance too. It must look good! Seeing a building should raise our interest levels and, even more than that, make us want to experience it for ourselves. This is crucial.



So, these are some of the things we'd expect to be included in the design process for life in towns. However, I'd like to share some of my views on urban design.

Firstly, while I'm sure they aim to follow such principles, I understand that architects can't always achieve their vision. This is often because their clients are on a limited budget, and, unfortunately, vast expanses of windows, for example, might be prohibitively expensive.

Moving on to another point. My personal view is that there should always be a balance between form and function. This means that I believe it is simply bad design if a building is impractical for the people using it, even though it might look impressive.

Now, to finish, let's look specifically at housing projects. It seems to me that some architects have little experience of actually living in urban areas. In some cases, this has had a negative effect. It has led to the building of some rather unattractive areas of housing, and this has given rise to a feeling of social isolation among the residents.

I hope you've found today's topic interesting. You might even find that you start to look at buildings around you in a different light from now on! Until next week, it's goodbye from me and the *Thinking Point* team.



## Teacher information

### Answers

**Main point/gist:** The speaker is talking about the considerations that should be taken into account when designing urban buildings and his ideas about urban building design.

### Possible responses to task

#### Considerations when designing urban buildings

- ▶ Access to natural light as it has a positive effect – regulates body clock/activity and relaxation periods.
- ▶ A range of different spaces for our needs – eg private and open spaces for different functions
- ▶ Aesthetic beauty/look good – make us interested in the building/want to experience it.

#### Speaker's attitude towards urban building design

- ▶ Architects may not achieve their vision as clients are often on a limited budget – eg windows are often too expensive.
- ▶ Need a balance of form and function – bad design if a building is impractical (for users) (but may look impressive).
- ▶ Some architects have little experience of living in urban areas – unattractive areas of housing, can lead to social isolation.